

*These Series E projections were extracted from the Smithfield-Selma 201 Facilities Plan.

**These are OBERS Series E projections extracted from the Smithfield-Selma 201 Facilities Plan, but are for the Selma Township within the 201 area only. The lower half of the Selma Township is encompassed within the 201 area.

B. Economy

Regional Influences

Within Region J--comprised of Wake, Orange, Durham, Chatham, Lee and Johnston Counties--Johnston County ranked last in per capita income (\$2699) and median family income (\$6023) in 1970.⁶ One of the major reasons for this has been the agriculturally oriented economy emphasized by the fact that 42 percent of Johnston County is devoted to cropland.⁷ But this is slowly but surely changing as shown by the table below:

TABLE 6⁸
CHANGE OF WORK FORCE COMPOSITION WITHIN JOHNSTON COUNTY

Year	Employment Total	Agr. (%)	Mfg. (%)	Non-Mfg. (%)
1962	22,560	8890 (39.4)	3800 (16.8)	5860 (26.0)
1967	23,880	6530 (27.3)	5460 (22.9)	7340 (30.7)
1970	23,670	5440 (23.0)	6460 (27.3)	8210 (34.7)
1972	24,290	5160 (21.2)	7050 (29.0)	8420 (34.7)

It can be seen that by 1967, more people within the county were employed in non-manufacturing jobs than those in agriculture. By 1970 the same could also be said for those in manufacturing. By 1972 those employed in agriculture had declined by 5.1 percent from 1970 but those in manufacturing had risen by 9.1 percent (non-manufacturing up, 2.6 percent). Most of this was in the apparel and electrical machinery industries.

Another regional factor that influences Johnston County is the commuter. As mentioned previously, the lack of a strong industrial base has been a contributing factor to a declining population. Were it not for the relative abundance of jobs in nearby counties, this out-migration would be even more pronounced.

In 1960, Johnston County had 20,344 employed residents but only 17,027 worked within the county; 809 more people commuted into the county. The net commuting loss amounted to 2,508, (20,344 minus 17,836). Of these, 2,076 or 82.8 percent commuted to Wake County.

By 1970 the employed county residents had increased to 24,189 and a total of 19,105 persons worked within the county. The net commuting